

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1, and add new claims 2-17, as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (New) A lacquer composition comprising:

- (1) from 5 to 99.5 wt. % of a polymer composition;
- (2) from 0.5 to 50 wt. % of a silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica having attached to the surface thereof one or more of the following: (a) alkylsilyl groups according to the molecular formula $\text{SiC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$, wherein n is an integer from 2 to 18; (b) dimethylsilyl groups; and (c) monomethylsilyl groups;
- (3) from 0 to 80 wt. % of one or more solvents; and
- (4) from 0 to 10 wt. % of an additive.

Claim 3 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition comprises a polymer selected from polyesters, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polycaprolactones, polyurethanes, polycarbonates, polyethers, polyepoxides, polyolefins, polyisocyanates, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition comprises a mixture of polyurethanes and polyisocyanates.

Claim 5 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition comprises polyesters, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, mixtures or copolymers thereof.

Claim 6 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition comprises polymers having pendant functionalized hydroxyl groups capable of crosslinking.

Claim 7 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 6, wherein said polymer composition comprises two or more crosslinked copolymers.

Claim 8 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has attached to the surface thereof octylsilyl groups as said alkylsilyl groups.

Claim 9 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has attached to the surface thereof hexadecylsilyl groups as said alkylsilyl groups.

Claim 10 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has attached to the surface thereof dimethylsilyl groups.

Claim 11 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said solvent is selected from hydrocarbons, alcohols, esters, ketones, amides, borates, silanes, water, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said solvent is selected from aromatic hydrocarbons, aliphatic hydrocarbons, araliphatic hydrocarbons, cycloaliphatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, butanol, benzyl alcohol, diacetone alcohol, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, butyl acetate, methoxypropyl acetate, butyl glycol acetate, phosphoric acid dibutyl ester, phosphoric acid tributyl ester, sulfonic acid esters, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-methylpyrrolidone, tetraethoxysilane, methyl-trimethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyl-trimethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyl-triethoxysilane, glycidyloxypropyl-trimethoxysilane, glycidyloxypropyl-triethoxysilane, borates, water, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (New) The lacquer composition according to claim 2, wherein said additive includes additives selected from rheologic agents, stabilization agents, dispersability agents, deagglomeration agents, flowability agents, fillers, and pigments.

Claim 14 (New) A silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica having attached to the surface thereof one or more of the following: (a) alkylsilyl groups according to the molecular formula $\text{SiC}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}$, wherein n is an integer from 2 to 18; (b) dimethylsilyl groups; and (c) monomethylsilyl groups.

Claim 15 (New) The silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica according to claim 14, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has attached to the surface thereof octylsilyl groups as said alkylsilyl groups.

Claim 16 (New) The silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica according to claim 14, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has attached to the surface thereof hexadecylsilyl groups as said alkylsilyl groups.

Claim 17 (New) The silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica according to claim 14, wherein said silanized, structurally modified pyrogenic silica has attached to the surface thereof dimethylsilyl groups.